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VOL. 2



CALGARY, DEC. 4, 1918

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### JUST BEFORE

Though he that ever kind and true,  
 Kept stoutly step by step with you,  
 Your whole, long, gusty lifetime  
 through,

Be gone a while before,  
 Be now a moment gone before,  
 Yet doubt not, soon the seasons shall  
 restore

Your friend to you--

He has but turned a corner--still  
 He pushes on with a right good will,  
 Through mire and marsh, by hedge  
 and hill.

That self-same, arduous way--  
 That self-same upland, hopeful way,  
 That you and he, through many a  
 doubtful day,  
 Attempted still.

He is not dead, this friend--not dead,  
 But in the path we mortals tread  
 Got some few trifling steps ahead,  
 And nearer to the end.

So that you, too, once past the bend  
 Shall meet again, as face to face, this  
 friend

You fancy dead.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

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### TOPICS IN BRIEF

The finest thing about a war is the end of it.

\* \* \*

The Kaiser is now welcome in No Man's Land.

\* \* \*

Bill quit Germany, but a Devil-of-a-Bill remains.

\* \* \*

How much longer will Canada's Press Censor draw his salary.

\* \* \*

Won't somebody tell the Profiteers the war is over.

\* \* \*

"The Cooties," too, will be sorry the war is over. A pleasant time was had by them.

\* \* \*

Farmers in politics is a live issue and likely to become more so in the near future.

### ENDOW THE PRESS

The Daily Chronicle has been sold. Its old proprietors never aimed at office for themselves, and the paper, as a rule, was independent, courageous and true to its principles. Newspapers now are being controlled by men who have one foot in Fleet Street and the other in Westminster or Whitehall. The papers that are free are becoming fewer and fewer at a time when it has become more evident than ever that the press is an organic part of the machinery of democracy, and that its purity, efficiency and disinterestedness are of the highest importance. Millions endow colleges, schools and libraries, but it has never yet occurred to a millionaire to endow a paper and a staff—and cast them clean adrift—The New Statesman.

\* \* \*

A clean peace means a new international policy that will chain up the furies of war for ever.

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## What Reconstruction Means!

By Will Workman.

The thought that the principles which govern the conduct of one man to another need readjusting is no new one.

In every age and clime there have been men who would recast or reconstruct the fabric of society. It can be stated, I think, without stirring up a nest of hornets, that the school of thought broadly called Socialistic have gone further toward the practical solution of this great problem than any school preceding it, and it would be safe to say that Liberals, Conservatives, Democrats and Republicans are constantly nibbling and placing on the Statutes some fragment of the principles enunciated by this ever-growing philosophy or religion.

Perhaps there was never a time that demonstrated as clearly as this war period has done, the imperative need of reconstruction, and certainly there was never a time that any system proved itself more inadequate to serve the needs of the age it pretended to serve. In the brief space allotted to us we will endeavor to say what reconstruction means to ourselves, the plain men and women who are neither by training nor temperament fitted to delve very deep into the great issues.

First and foremost, then, it means the carrying out to its finality the idea of the League of Nations, and the destruction of the false gods that under the guise of patriotism make possible war, and the setting up of the International, in place of the National. It means the same code of morality for the nation as for the individual, and the commandment: "Thou shalt not kill," shall be just as binding on one as the other.

To the Britisher it means, the destruction of the heroic as typified by Nelson, Raleigh, Marlboro and Kitchener, the idea of not allowing Irishmen to govern Ireland, and Egyptians to govern Egypt. The freedom of the seas, without the surveillance of the British navy; death to the dream of the World Empire. In the place of these, "The Federation of the World and the Parliament of Man."

In the world of commerce and finance it of necessity breathes a new ideal. The first pillar must be absolute Free Trade between all nations. It is not necessary to repeat that tariff walls have been very largely responsible for creating feelings of distrust, and there can be no League of Nations while tariff walls stand. To all nations, it means that the system of grab which has contributed to the building up of obnoxious colonial systems must be brought to an end.

In our domestic laws and relationships the need for reconstruction is just as keen.

While we in the West have different problems from those that are so evident in Europe, they are based on the same fundamental misconceptions.

The wanton destruction and alienation of the natural resources of the North American continent has been one of the blackest crimes in history. The creation of millionaires of the Jay Gould, Rockefeller, Clifford Sifton type will reveal to future generations the criminality and lack of foresight of those to whom have been entrusted the laying of the foundations of the North American dominions. Reconstruction means that the natural resources that are still in the hands of the people must be used for the benefit of the people and steps taken to recover those lands and resources that have been filched.

The great public service corporation must also be brought into the realms of Public Ownership.

The system of distributing the necessities of life with its highly vaunted idea of efficiency has proved in the period of stress through which we have just passed to be lacking without exception the warning nations have had to ignore the regular channels of trade and create organizations that were less cumbersome and more in keeping with a Socialized community. The old order built on profits—profits for the manufacturer, broker, wholesaler and retailer, each with their wasteful system of advertising and duplication of travelling, salesmen must go and in its place a system of a co-operative nature whether owned by the consumers themselves or the State must be set up, a system that will find the shortest route to the consumer from the producer and service to the community be the goal of its endeavors.

Some have had an idea that the Grain Growers' Organization would attempt to use its influence and machinery to this end. In the older countries the efforts of co-operative societies have benefited the community irrespective of whether they were members or no, unfortunately, the Grain Growers imagine that their duty ends when they have served their members. Whether it will eventually strike them that it is to the interest of all that they must broaden their ideas and put a little of the Altruism of the age into the management remains to be seen.

Into the industrial world the new ideal must also be set working. The thought that one set of human beings were born to be exploited by another must no longer have a place. A system of joint management is now being arranged in Great Britain, whether this will eventually lead to Syndicalism, Guild Socialism or State Ownership we need not at this time concern ourselves, that scheme will be adopted finally that proves itself the best fitted to serve the age. The great thing at this

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# LABOR AND THE PEACE SETTLEMENT

It is certain that the Peace Settlement will not refer only to those issues which the professional diplomatists are accustomed—"the necessary territorial adjustments."

The insistent efforts of the Labor organizations of the Allied Nations has been directed to the end that the Treaty of Peace will include settlement of the economic questions in which the Labor organizations of the world have so great an interest. The British Labor Party's Memorandum of War Aims expounded the idea of embodying in the new instrument of world settlement, not merely the principle of preventing hostile tariff discriminations and maintaining an open door for trade, but also that of an international common minimum of social legislation, such as the actual prevention of unemployment (not its relief when allowed to occur), provisions for protection of labor, security of life and health as well as its care in case of illness, accident and invalidity, and the active intervention of Governments in the reorganization of industry.

Some people will be surprised at the idea that such an instrument as the Peace Treaty should deal with social and economic subjects. But this Treaty of Peace must be the foundation of a new World of States, and it cannot be ignored that in the relations between States there is much more involved than a clash of arms.

The Labor Aims fall under three main heads. First, reparation of damage to individual sufferers, not compensation to Governments and property-owners only but also necessary provision for "setting up the wage-earners and peasants in homes and employments, and compensation for those who have suffered wrong, or to their dependents." This idea strikes a new note. Second, it requires that each country adopt active regulation of the conditions of industry, culminating in international factory, health, housing, accident, unemployment and other social legislation. Third, Labor draws attention to the imperative necessity of not leaving things to the mad scramble of competitive profiteering, but that concerted international action should be taken for the rationing to all countries of the raw materials and transport needed to set going industry to prevent widespread starvation or prolonged unemployment in particular countries as to amount of famine.

Labor insists, whether we wish it or not, that "we are members one of another. No man (nation) liveth to himself alone. If any, even the humblest suffer, the whole community and everyone of us is thereby injured. For generation after generation this has been the corner-stone of the faith of Labor. It will be the guiding principle of any Labor Government."

Who, after this shall scoff at Labor organizations or endeavor to throw stones at its Leaders?

—JOHN PHAROS.

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time is to set in motion some machinery which is a step in the direction of Democratic control and which will be the foundation of the larger plan. The Whitley Report, The Shop Stewards' Movement, and experiments that are now being made in Russia will all furnish data that will assist us to arrive at the solution of this problem.

The health of the community must no longer be left in the chaotic state it is in today. If the teachings of Christianity can not compel us to alter it, then the fact that it is poor business to leave the health of the present to the vagaries of charity and a profit-seeking profession. That the birth travails of a mother should be made a source of profit, and that the life and usefulness of the whole community should be curtailed because the State has not realized it has a duty to its citizens in this regard is a very serious reflection on the efficacy of the Christian church to instill the teachings of Christ, and on our National pride to have a race of weaklings. The health of all must be the business of all. If the military find it necessary to provide medical care for the soldier, surely it is the business of the State to provide for those who by their every-day activities produce the essentials of life.

The education of the young must have to be given a new dignity. Too long has this been regarded as only an end to a means, and the old idea that education is only a preparation to a means of making a livelihood must give place to the thought that education is mental training, stimulus to the imagination and cultivation of the powers of reasoning. The teaching profession has too long been regarded as a step towards the legal profession, and the consequences are that the old-fashioned school-master has given place to young ladies, who, whatever their academic knowledge, have not lived long enough to be able to impart to their pupils the real philosophy of life.

Reconstruction means, in short, that all the activities that go towards the making and distributing of the necessities and pleasures of life shall be taken out of the Individualistic and placed on A Social Basis.

WILL WORKMAN.

Next issue:—"Are the Workers Profiteering."

\*\*\*

### BUYING A PEERAGE

The purchase price of the Daily Chronicle, Lloyd's News and fixtures, etc., was \$8,000,000, which indicates substantial profits has been made since the War. The paper is going to be a Lloyd George Liberal paper, and will bid for Liberal support. Mr. George has quite enough Unionists on his back and does not want more. The "Old Gang" Asquith Liberals meditated purchasing the paper and with sufficient push and enterprise could certainly have got it. But the timidity which too often marks their politics came out in their private ventures and they allowed the friends of Mr. George to walk in and secure one of the most influential dailies in the country. Competing groups clustered round like flies round a honey pot.

Sir Henry Dalziel (owner of Reynold's Weekly) and his group of Whitehall business men pulled off the coup, and it is evident they will want some return for that eight millions beyond the consciousness of having served their Great Leader. As to how many will get a peerage will remain an open question, but the odds can certainly be laid on Sir Henry getting one.

—The New Statesman.



## The Labor Movement

### RECONSTRUCTION.

By Alex. Ross, M. L. A.



The word "Reconstruction" has taken the place of the word democracy in our national vocabulary; it is now a sort of an etymological football, played by people who seem to have but little knowledge of where the goal posts are. Were any one to dare ask

what they meant by reconstruction, the game would have to be suspended to allow the referee to wet his whistle.

During the last week, Ottawa has been visited by people representing our national institutions, begging for an opportunity to help in what is termed "Reconstruction." Ottawa received them with open arms, even feted some of the deputations at the Chateau Laurier. The spokesman for the government assumed that we were about to enter a very critical period in our national life, but they, being wise men endowed with unusual perspicacity, had appointed several committees to prepare for this period and only quite recently another committee had been appointed to supervise the work of the other committees, etc., etc. These deputations were further advised to go home and start reconstructing.

No doubt there are many people who would like to do a little reconstructing, but what are we going to reconstruct? What is wrong with our present structure? Surely it is important that we should know what is wrong with our present structure before we attempt to reconstruct as people very rarely attempt to repair, reconstruct, or renovate anything unless there is a need for it, and before the overhauling process commences we agree what is to be done and plan accordingly.

It may be that we all agree that the pre-war state is so bad that a diagnosis is unnecessary, or that a scientific preparation and treatment is impossible of accomplishment. If we could only agree on the first question that the pre-war state was bad, or that it had fallen into a hopeless condition of disrepair during the war, there would be some hope for the future, at least that belief would form a solid foundation to commence reconstruction. There is nothing, however, to indicate that we consider the present state as faulty; on the contrary, we must consider it a very worthy institution because we are sending an army

over to Russia to persuade our one-time Allies that our democracy is the best.

It is hardly fair to assume that the capitalist will ever agree that a change is necessary; he made money in pre-war days; he made much more during the war, and is now living in hopes of peace and prosperity. He is now evidently grasping the opportunity to make a plea for more protection, state aid to industries, or anything that will make a return on his investment secure. Although there is no desire on his part to exchange a system that fed him well, he is, judging by the literature issued by the manufacturers, somewhat alarmed at the prospect of returned soldiers being unable to find employment. To have a surplus of labor was always regarded as indispensable to good business. The times have changed: the surplus, it is feared, will be large and dangerous.

It is generally conceded that the return of the soldier will witness an overstocked labor market, also that the working class will not regard unemployment in the same light as in pre-war days. The sacrifice has been so great that those who made the sacrifice have earned the right to employment, if by that means only they can live. It is not a new idea; the only difference between now and pre-war days is that the latent power of the mass has been awakened. They are going to demand employment!

The state has to be readjusted to meet the demand for employment. If it cannot be done by private enterprise, then we must do it by collective enterprise. Some nations will find it extremely difficult to adjust the present system of production to guarantee a national minimum of security against poverty and want. In Western Canada that difficulty does not exist; we have millions of acres of fertile lands held out of use. What we ought to do is to take the land from the speculators and give it to those who will use it. The process may be painful for land monopolists, but now is the opportune moment to inaugurate a land policy that will put a ban for all time on land speculators.

Land settlement, no matter what the conditions are, cannot be regarded as a panacea for unemployment, as a large number of those who will be looking for employment have already tried farming and could not be again persuaded to take up land, will demand work in other industries. Unemployment, were it possible to regard it as a provincial question, need not be difficult to face. Forty thousand men enlisted from the province; fifty per cent. were employed on the land before enlistment, the balance were casually employed in towns.

The state should undertake the development of our natural resources. Such an undertaking would secure a dual-purpose; it would not only help to provide employment more readily than if left to private enterprise, but it would strike a blow at the social ills inherent in a system which encourages private ownership of the necessities of life.

Canada has an exceptional opportunity of building a state that ought to be an example to the civilized world because we are comparatively free from tradition—possessing enormous potentialities. Have we the "Will To Do?"

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There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings. —Ruskin.

### ANOTHER STALWART LOST

The Non-Partisan movement has lost a worthy and influential supporter through the death of Mr. Russel Main, of Pincher Creek, who was one of the unfortunate victims of the epidemic. Mr. Main was a clear thinker on political and social matters; was held in highest respect by his fellows, and was an enthusiastic worker for the cause of democracy. He was one of the first to join the League in that district, and much of the success of the movement there is due to his influence and efforts. We can ill afford to lose such men as this when they are so much needed, but we will not forget his services, and will "carry on" so that his efforts may yet result in the greatest possible harvest of good.

### HEROINES OF THE "FLU"

It is safe to say that there is not one class of people or profession which did more to stamp out the recent epidemic, or which is more deserving of the gratitude of the various communities than that of the Alberta school teachers. There are comparatively speaking so few men in this profession that we may confine our remarks to the ladies. They, with a courage and a willingness to serve that were admirable, volunteered to nurse, or make soup or do some other work necessary for the common good, and, but for their timely service, the death rate might have been very much increased.

Self-sacrifice and service are the noblest ends of human life, and it is gratifying to know that those who come in such close contact with the coming generation possess these high qualities. The influence of charac-

ters capable of such noble service is a moral asset to Alberta, and will reflect itself in the lives of those coming under their tuition. All honor to the lady teachers of Alberta. We thank you.

\* \* \*

### POLITICAL ACTION.

Readers of the Non-Partisan have been recently favored with able articles from Mr. Weir and Mr. Dunham for and against political action by the farming and working class generally. It seems to us that both writers have discovered and announced truths which are not necessarily contradictory. Mr. Dunham believes that it would be a mistake for the U. F. A., or any other branch of the farmers' industrial organization, to enter politics as an organization, while Mr. Weir believes that political action by organized farmers is imperative.

The truth of Mr. Dunham's contention is very clear. The U. F. A. has been organized on industrial lines. By mutual arrangement, politics is banned from the organization; and, as a result, men of all types of political belief belong to the movement. They can thus co-operate without friction, and accomplish a great deal to benefit the farming industry, while if they took up politics, being divided in political opinion, the wreck of the U. F. A. would be the inevitable result. This is seen by Mr. Dunham, and by Mr. Woods and others, and they are wise to keep the movement to the main object of its coming into being.

On the other hand, Mr. Weir, we believe, is equally right when he claims that farmers must organize for political action before they can hope to affect the changes in our economic system which most farmers desire. Co-operation has proved of great advantage in an industrial sense to the Western farmer, and Mr. Weir would extend the principle of co-operation into the political field. This, we believe, is an imperative step, but it must be taken outside of the U. F. A.; it must be built up by men of common political views. This is precisely the function of the Non-Partisan League. We must have political action, but such action cannot be taken by an industrial organization composed of men of all shades of political opinion, hence Mr. Weir and Mr. Dunham are both right in their contentions.

The League has no word but praise for the U. F. A. There is great need for both movements, and the sooner these movements learn to practise between themselves the co-operation they preach, the better it will be for both.

**THE G. G. A.** In the columns of the Non-Partisan recently there appeared a criticism of the Grain Growers' organization and of the Grain Growers' Guide, which some people think severe and unwarranted. These articles, by Mr. Carp, have been replied to by champions of the G. G. A., and our paper has been equally at the disposal of both. We believe in the virtues of criticism, and whether Mr. Carp's views are correct or not, it will do no harm for the G. G. A., and its mouthpiece, the "Guide," to know what a section of the public think concerning them.

We refrain from reaching conclusions in our editorial columns on the debate between Mr. Buckley and Mr. Carp for several reasons. The first is that the Grain Growers' Association is not yet an enemy to progress, and hence we have no call to attack its principles. It has done a wonderful work for Western Canada along educational lines, and we believe it is still in a position to conform to the new demands.

Again, the Association began to do a co-operative business on the broadest principle for which it could receive government permission, and has been hampered by capitalistic legislation designed to prevent the development of a true co-operative movement.

In any event, the Grain Growers' Association is as good as those composing it will permit, and if the criticism of such writers as Mr. Carp be taken in the proper spirit there is no doubt that a tremendous field of usefulness will open up for the organized farmers, and the future will prove for the G. G. A. as bright and serviceable as the past.

\* \* \*

### THE O. I. C. GOVERNMENT

The present government entered upon its career under the auspicious name of a Union Government, but its actions will earn for it the name of the Order-in-Council Government. Parliament has almost become a thing of the past; questions of tremendous importance which would not have passed the house under fair debate have been rushed through by order-in-council, some of which questions have been half-baked, and some entirely raw. The people are getting heart-sick of this, and will welcome a change at the first opportunity.

The last order-in-council is typically plutocratic, having as its aim the protection of private property and the care of profits. Under its enforcement any individual or organization advocating public or government

ownership will be liable to imprisonment.

It will be the irony of fate is some of our returned soldiers should be arraigned in court for the infringement of this restrictive act. Surely, when men have died for liberty, their relatives and comrades should be expected to uphold the principles for which they died. If this be done in Canada, the new O. I. C. will deal with them. Germany is throwing aside her shackles and Canada is putting them on.

\* \* \*

### WHAT CANADA SAYS AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Nothing !!

\* \* \*

### THE ECHO OF GERMANY

The Ontario division of the Canadian Navy League has forwarded a resolution to the Naval League of England to the effect that the "freedom of the seas could only be guaranteed by a strong Imperial navy." This league further suggests that a strong-Canadian navy may be developed so as to protect our mercantile marine, and asks that the German fleet, surrendered to Admiral Beatty, be handed over to Canada as a nucleus of said navy.

Of course, the latter part of this proposal is too ludicrous for comment, and is too silly to have been suggested by a group of school children, but the resolution forwarded to England respecting the necessity of an Imperial navy to maintain the freedom of the seas, and the desire to build a Canadian navy, are nothing short of the Kaiser's echoes and should be repudiated.

It is clear to any one of average intelligence that these two demands are contradictory. An Imperial navy and a Canadian navy would be two different things, while the Ontario Navy League seems to think these are the same. But the illogical discrepancy aside, what will be left of the League of Nations if an Imperial Navy large enough to maintain the freedom of the seas be allowed? Such a naval force might upset the equilibrium of the supernational court, and would be strong enough to defy it.

Great Britain's power on the seas has on the whole been used very creditably, and if any nation or empire be allowed to retain such power, Great Britain might be chosen as the one to entrust it to. But we are of the opinion that the freedom of the seas should be left to no individual nation, it should be in control of an international authority, and we are in hopes that such an authority may

be created at the peace conference. But the point that concerns us most is that the naval spirit of Ontario is as objectionable to a peace-loving people as the military spirit of Germany. Why should we sacrifice so many of our people to destroy the damnable thing in Germany, and then re-establish it in Canada?

\* \* \*

### WHY FIGHT RUSSIA?

Canada has fought for four years in France

and Flanders because democracy was believed to be at stake and in the name of the same issue a force was organized and sent to fight the Russian peasants, who have just got rid of their Czar, and are trying to establish the democracy we have been fighting for. Now the war in Europe suddenly ends through the collapse of Germany, but our troops still proceed to Russia. Why?

The reason for this sits on the surface, and may be easily seen. When Russia was an Ally of Great Britain, the capitalists of the latter country lent large sums of money to finance the war in Russia. When the Bolsheviks came to power, they repudiated all debts, and thus jeopardized the investment of British capitalists. In order, therefore, to safeguard this capital, the monied rulers of Great Britain send forces to defeat the Bolsheviks, and call upon Canada to send its quota.

The situation is awkward to say the least. We sent our men to France to fight for Democracy, now we are sending them to Russia to upset democracy. How long will Canada stand for this? The money of British investors is not worth the death of one Canadian, and whether the Bolshevik movement meets with our approval or not is of no importance, being as it is the exclusive business of the Russian people. In view of these conditions we believe that the Canadian expedition to Russia should be recalled at once.

\* \* \*

### SCOTT OF SASKATCHEWAN REPUDIATES UNION GOVERN- MENT

Hon. Walter Scott, former Premier of Saskatchewan, and one of the ablest

of party leaders, has declared that the Union Government has outlived its usefulness. He points out that the Union Government is not fitted to reconstruct, and that it has utterly failed to make any preparation for the peace conference, which became the most important thing in the world as soon as the war came to an end.

Very few people, indeed, will disagree with Mr. Scott in this. Conditions in Canada call for an immediate appeal to the people, and for the placing of men in office who have vision to guide the country out of the past into a new life and toward a new and nobler destiny.

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FORD AND CHEVROLET SPECIALISTS

# The Promise of the Future

By John Glambeck, Secty. Queens-  
town, U. F. A.



are likely to be the real gainers from this war. The late W. T. Stead, I think, held the theory that it was better for the proletariat of a country when their side lost a war. And it is likely to come true.

The people of both Austria and Germany have not only gained political liberty, but they will gain economic freedom as well. The German, Austrian and Russian workers will now get their reforms for the asking, and the burden likely to be imposed on them by the Allies will be as nothing compared to the burdens they will rid themselves of for the future. Not only will the new form of government be in itself a guarantee of peace, but also a guarantee that the people will cease to be robbed and exploited by an organized gang of profiteers at home. I am firmly convinced the people of these countries will get the junker elements off their backs for good and all.

And what about Canada? What will we Canadians, citizens of the British Empire, have gained by the war? It may be some satisfaction to know we have helped the people of the Central Empires in getting rid of their oppressors, but what about our own Huns who evidently have no intention of abdicating and setting us free. There is not a sign on the horizon that our economic chains will be loosened or our burdens lightened. Our political liberty had serious setbacks during the war. A country governed by orders-in-council is not exactly our ideal of democracy. Still, we were told it was necessary during the war, and on the strength of that we will say no more about it, but it is up to us to see to it that nothing more in that line is put over us.

At the present time all the great and good men who rule us are spending sleepless nights and burning midnight oil in order to devise ways and means to settle the soldiers' problem and to lay plans for reconstruction. Already our press is foreshadowing great emigration and general prosperity for the future. What does this talked-of prosperity mean? It means that all the factories and other enterprises in which our money-kings have their capital invested should be running full time with wages low and an army of unemployed waiting ready to take the jobs of the employed workers should they ask for higher wages and better working conditions. It means that there should be a man on every quarter, half, or whole section from the International Boundary to as far north to the North Pole as it is possible for man to live. It means that every man, woman and child living on these farms will work early and late, during heat or cold, to cultivate these farms and turn the product over to the financial magnates to gamble with. It means that these settled districts will be followed by small towns where "our money-kings" can place branches of their banks, implement, hardware and grocery stores, charging their own prices to the farmers,

and to buy all the farmers' products at the buyers' own price.

The ideal farmer in the opinion of these same financiers is the man with a bare living, who does not belong to the farmer's union or co-operative association, who will vote one or the other of the old party ticket at election time, and who sells everything he raises to local dealers and buys everything he needs from the same people. This was the idea of prosperity believed in before the war, and unless we ourselves can defeat it, will be the system forced upon us in the future.

The farmer can be prepared for it only one way, and that is to organize together—economically and politically. Remember, this is our own fight, and we cannot look to those now riding on our back to get off unless we make them. And it is far better and easier to pay membership fees to organizations and do it constitutionally, than to have to help throw up barricades and expose one's self in defending them as often has been the case in Europe. That is why every farmer should listen patiently to an organizer when he comes round, for it is far more profitable to you to listen to him than to many salesmen you spend hours with. And when you have joined and paid your fee, remember your duty has just begun. You must see that it is put to good use, and to accomplish the result set out to achieve you must at all times be ready to put your shoulder to the wheel and help the movement along. Talk about it to your brother farmers, and get them interested as well for every one that lines up the stronger your side becomes. See that the management is efficient and the funds administered in the right way. Attend the conventions and elect your own executive officials, men in whom your trust and confidence can be placed. Take an interest in the audit, and do not hesitate to make any suggestion whereby you think the methods might be improved. Once you are a member, you are a part of the movement, and you can do something in helping to direct its policy. Its no use paying a membership fee and then being "a dead one," like some of our members elected to parliament.

The Non Partisan movement is a new movement, and to all who are new members, or about to become members, I would say don't go to the opposition for a true opinion of what it stands for. The old party press would very soon scare and alarm you, but there is no need for that. The reforms advocated are sane, progressive and practical—along the line of the greatest good to the greatest number. The aim of the Non Partisan movement is two-fold—first, to secure a business administration instead of a party government, and then to proceed with an economic reconstruction on democratic lines. But the people must first obtain political control. The government of Canada, and that of the provinces, are in the hands of a few powerful interests who practically finance all elections for benefits either received or promised to them, and in this way they control the supposed representatives of the people.

The League is organizing the farmers so that they can select their own representatives, draft the programme of legislation, fight elections with the organization, and with his or her recall signed, place the member elected in the true position of a servant of the people. The financing of elections by the big interests is one of the chief sources of political corruption, for it ties the hands and

silences the tongue of every party politician in parliament in speaking for the real interests of the people.

Then, as soon as the people own the government, that government can take over the ownership and control of public utilities, such as transportation, communication, banks, and all natural resources necessary to the welfare of the people. These should not be in the possession and control of individuals, and as soon as conveniently possible, should be taken over and operated by the government for service to the people, and not for private profit. There is nothing unpractical in this, but it would be very unpractical to allow those things which everybody must use in order to live to belong to a few individuals for their own private profit. If that way is always continued, then the people will be for ever up against exploitation.

Our coal mines, our gas fields and oil lands and all mineral wealth should be public property. All our railways should be owned and operated by the government. Those who built the first continental railway have been well paid; in fact, the country has paid tremendous profits to the shareholders, and they could well afford to hand it over at a very reasonable price. Then, again, the telegraph and express companies; these enterprises should belong to the government. The infamous protective tariff, which takes millions from the people, must be abolished. Our banking system is sucking the very life blood from the farmer. Eight to ten per cent. interest is usury. A government loan system could be inaugurated that would loan to farmers at the very lowest possible rate of interest. The man and woman who is willing to go out to the frontier and cultivate land should be enabled to get money for machinery and stock, and also to live the first year. Such a system is already in operation in Denmark and works well. Also, all speculation in whatever products the farmers raise must cease.

There are many other things that are urgently needed, all along practical lines. To pass resolutions and present them to the present government who are in the hands of our plutocratic class is a waste of time and perfectly useless. They will either be ignored entirely, or measures will be passed in such shape that they will be worthless. It's absolutely no use to rely on party politicians who are under the domination of those interests who finance them. When they come before us at election times, with their tongue in their cheek and tears in their voice, we should turn a deaf ear to them. A little of the Kaiser medicine might do them good. We should put them on trial for the evil they have done, and for the way in which they have squandered the country's resources.

Farmers and workers, to have anything worth having, we must gain control of the government. To remedy our evils, we must organize, educate and legislate. If we hold together and elect our own representatives—then the future is ours. And instead of the awful poverty now existent among our fellowmen, which has been shown in glaring fashion by the recent epidemic, many dreadful cases having come to my knowledge, then that future will be bright with the promise of a higher and richer existence, a grander life for all. Let us all play a man's part in helping to establish justice, righteousness and a square deal for all in this corner of the earth. Let us all work for the future.

—JOHN GLAMBECK.



DEATH OF A. R. MAIN.  
OF PINCHER CREEK.

Russell Main is dead, died of pneumonia at the early age of 34, in the prime of his manhood.

Since the world turned topsy-turvy four years ago and in these days of epidemics, such an announcement does not mean much to the majority of newspaper readers, but to those who knew and respected him, it means the loss of a warm-hearted and true friend. To the host of friends in the Pincher district, it will be a shock to think that never again will they have contact with his genial nature and generous personality.

Russell came to Canada 25 years ago from North Shields, Northumberland, Eng., with his parents who settled near Pincher Creek. His mother having predeceased him, there is left to mourn his loss, the widow, a daughter, two stepsons, his father, who resides in the States; a sister, Mrs. T. P. Neuman, of Pincher Creek; two brothers, Lieut. Tom Main (Royal Engineers), now in Italy, and Lieut. Kenneth Main (Royal Aviation Corps), at present in Egypt.

In the best of health a month ago, Mr. Main left for a business trip through British Columbia, and, on contracting influenza, returned home immediately. The best of medical attention was given him, but without avail, and he succumbed on Friday, Nov. 15th.

A good Democrat and a progressive citizen, the Non-Partisan cause, in his death, has lost an active supporter, and one of its ablest defenders. He was one of the stalwart few who joined the League in its early days, and his energetic efforts, pleasant manner and platform ability contributed in no small measure to the fine showing made in the election of 1917 in the Pincher constituency. With his progressive viewpoint on life, there was a prospect of a fine career ahead for him.

He farmed 5 miles west of Pincher Creek, and had been a director of the South Alberta Hay Growers, Ltd., since its organization in 1910. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances is extended to the wife and relatives in their sad loss.

Russell is gone,—passed beyond the reach of the voices of loving friends and kindred, and the touch of hands he dear. But he has bequeathed to the sorrowing ones a tender and sacred memory. We who knew him well, will count life the richer for having known him. May his soul still live on.—H. A. McGlemming.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Mrs. E. K. Johnson and Herbert Johnson, of Alderson, wish to express through "The Non-Partisan," their heartfelt thanks for the sympathy received and help given in their great sorrow. Special mention is made of the assistance rendered by Mr. Jas. Weir. They are glad to know that Harry was so well loved and that hundreds mourn with them in the loss sustained.

\* \* \*

## ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW.

By James Weir, M. L. A.

"DEEP FURROWS"—THE "GUFFIN" STORY  
OF THE GRAIN GROWERS.

There has recently been displayed among the farmer leaders a disposition toward self adulation and mutual back-scratching that is becoming little short of nauseous and is fast rendering the whole class ridiculous.

The Lethbridge "Nutcracker" refers twice in a short article to our "Good President," and the U. F. A. Secty. visits Edmonton and forthwith a "puff" appears, comparing H. W. Wood to Lincoln. I have no desire to detract in any degree the merits of the president, but this slobber does not add to his virtue. Wood does remind me of Lincoln; not because he is like him, but because he is so different.

In the Anniversary number of the Guide, published last August, there is a very becoming tribute to those who bore the burden and heat of the day in the farmers' movement in Western Canada. The "write up" was from the pen of Norman Lambert, now secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. It was sane, sensible and altogether deserved and sufficient to meet most requirements in that regard, to get the rank and file into personal touch with those who began and continued the struggle under most adverse conditions.

When "Deep Furrows" protrudes this idea to the length of a goodly-sized volume, it invades the realm of sycophancy, searches the dictionary for superlatives, and at times becomes sickening and silly.

The book is being backed financially by the Grain Growers, who in this way are making the humble "haymakers" pay for the boosting of their mostly very mediocre leaders. There is a vigorous propaganda on through the locals for the sale of the book, thus providing the aforesaid haymakers a golden opportunity to be caught going and coming. The author is one Hopkins Moorhouse, one-time publicity agent for Manitoba under the benign influence of the Roblin government, of somewhat Savory memory. There is a big bill board campaign on, too, under the guidance of the gentleman who conducted that phase of the Union Government campaign last fall. The book is being properly advertised on the bill board, along with Bovril and other bovine compounds.

It would be well if our leading men would make this less an occasion for self glorification than for prayerful consideration of the dangers upon which we are drifting—dangers that arise not in foreign courts nor camps, but are conceived in sin by our Canadian plutocrats and brought forth in iniquity by our own political bosses.

In this season of short crops and shorter bank credits every farmer in Alberta who has a dollar and a half that he doesn't

know what to do with, should buy and read a copy of the book. It is almost as interesting and equally as coherent as the speeches of many of the Unionist spellbinders of a year ago, or the review of public events by J. Castor Oil Hopkins. The publishers lay special stress on its humor. I have read it from "Kiver to Kiver," and I find that when the writer is serious, the reader is convulsed, and when he opens the tap of his wit, the wooden Indian tobacco signs weep.

One merit the book has, it pays a tardy and belated tribute to Ed. Partridge, long withheld by his associates, and doesn't overlook the work of W. R. Motherwell in the early days of the farmers' movement, not withstanding the fact that less than a year ago the Manitoba Free Press, owned by Clifford Sifton, advocated the pillory for both him and George Langley, because they refused to fall on their "tummies" with their faces toward the mecca of Union Government.

In his eulogy of the U. F. A. president, the author, whether, strung, with the story, or merely "inspired," falls into one very grievous error. He credits the gentleman with being the author of U. F. A. Sunday. The originator of that event was an humble, though highly respected member of the organization, L. B. Hart, of Carbon, and both the late Mr. Speakman and the late W. J. Tregillus addressed U. F. A. Sunday services at Carbon before H. W. Wood ever emerged from the obscurity of Carstairs.

One of the alleged humorous incidents in the book, I presume, is that recorded of T. A. Crerar, that he milked the cows and walked three miles to school, and got his feet wet in the prairie grass. That, of course, was before the days of Union Government, and the use of private telegrams for partisan purposes; before the future Tom Thumb among Canadian statesmen expressed himself in favor of conscription of wealth, and took office in a government of plutocrats and profiteers, before he defaulted on the farmers' platform which he helped to build, or remained in a government that had broken its pledge to the great farmer class whom he claimed to represent in the cabinet.

"The boy is father to the man, as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined," the "wet" feet of those boyhood days gave glad promise of the "cold" feet of later years. Any horse doctor will tell you that wet feet are almost certain to get cold in time.

The book belongs with the elder Disraeli's among "The Curiosities of Literature."—JAMES WEIR.

\* \* \*

A reader the other day told us he took the paper to the U.F.A. local meetings and many articles were discussed by the members. That's right, do some missionary work and help to spread the right gospel—make it the best read paper in Alberta.

\* \* \*

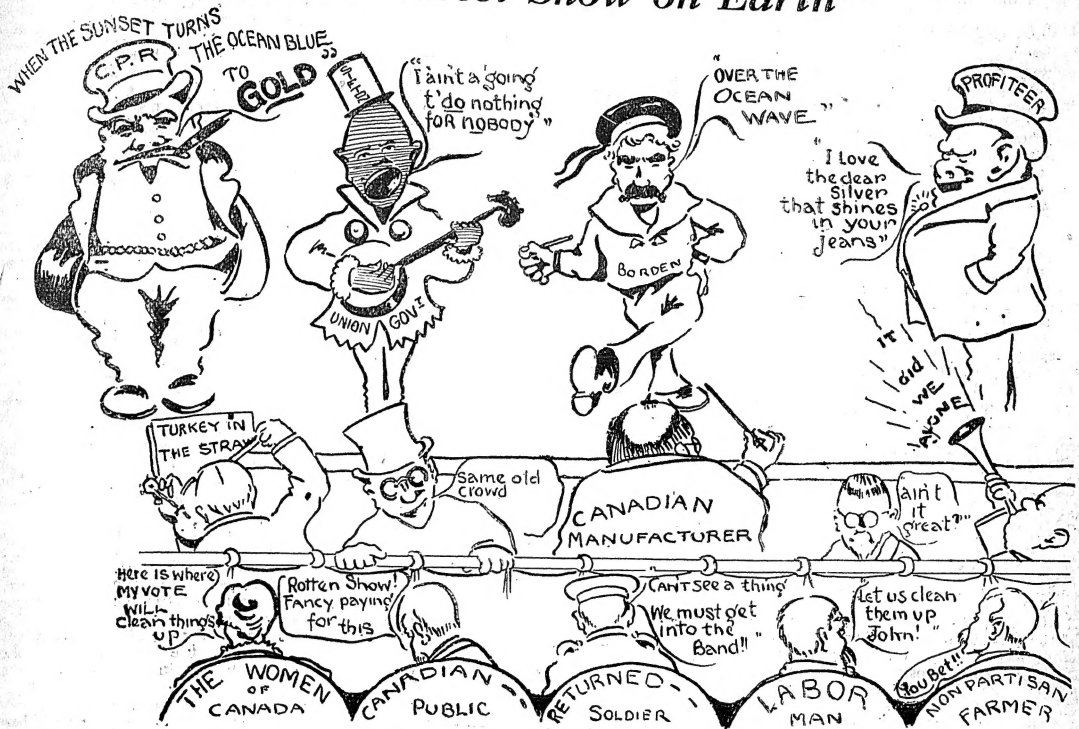
## FARM WOMEN MUST HELP

## FARMERS REALIZE THEIR POWER.

Ontario needed such an object lesson as the Manitoulin election, and every county in the province, even though some would have to affiliate with labor to do so—could score the same success. The town vote was against the farm candidate, but the farmers held together. If farmers only organize and co-operate, and then realize the power they hold, and by thorough organization take it into their own hands, unthought of changes can be brought about. And the farmer's wife must help.

Miss Griesbach, Secty. U. F. W. O.

# "The Greatest Show on Earth"



The Canadian Manufacturers' Association conducts the Orchestra. "Those who pay the piper calls the tune."

## Jottings from Ontario

The U. F. O. faces a great opportunity and farmers will do well to keep their eye on political developments over Canada during the next four or five weeks.

The next few weeks may even mean the success or failure of the movement. Inside the month the U. F. O. will have held its annual convention and have taken a stand upon the political affiliations of the movement.

The U. F. O.'s "platform" for a farmers' party, or at least for farmer members of parliament, will have been dealt with, and if signs can be read, the Conservative and Liberal parties will be before the public with definite programs, and the Unionists will be there or thereabouts.

With the election of Bowman in Manitoulin and the candidature of President Halbert in North Ontario, the U. F. O. has been drawn into politics. It is now impossible to stand aloof; nor is there any inclination to do so.

With Sir John Willison's "Canadian Reconstruction Association," hammering away on its protectionist campaign, with others advancing the propaganda of closer Imperial relations, with the necessity of paying for the war looming up, it is absolutely essential that agriculture should be able to voice its sentiments politically.

The mind of farmers of all Ontario must be turned to the serious political and economic problems that must be solved. With the aid of its paper, a propaganda must be launched that will genuinely inform farmers and weld rural thought into a solid unit.

The present is one of the most serious and pivotal moments in the history of the Dominion. Agriculture is in the saddle as it never was before. All it needs is public endorsement and a firm hand on the reins. Momentous things are to come. The future of Canada will lie in the hand of the elected representatives of the people, and action is inevitable.

Are farmers to elect their share of these representatives? A start has been made and the opportunity will again come in other ridings. But there is no farmer's party; there is no farmers' leader—there is nothing for political purposes but a rabble.

And the foes of agriculture are gathering in packs to be let loose upon the country like hungry wolves out to see that their bellies do not grow gaunt, nor their hide chafe against naked ribs in the lean times ahead.

The die will be cast in the next four weeks or so. Decisive problems will have to be met and the present may be the most important day in Canada's history.

Farmers of all Ontario, come to the annual U. F. O. convention at Toronto ready to enter into the deliberations in a broad spirit. Be ready to intelligently discuss the political situation; be ready to wisely counsel together for the good of agriculture and the welfare of Canada (the two things are inseparable), and leave your party politics at home.

You have to decide what it is to be. A farmers' Independent Party, or are the farmers of Ontario to tie up with whichever party is prepared to throw it the bait of an approved platform in order to secure its support?

THINK about it; TALK about it, and come to the annual convention in December ready to ACT about it. "Quit ye like men." —A. S. T. in the Weekly Sun.

## THE "BIG I AM!"

One reason why the Non-Partisan candidates should be supported is that they are of the people, for the people, and appointed by the people, and are not self-appointed. They have the endorsement of the farmers because after investigating their character they have found them good. They find in them men they can trust and who will work for the cause of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," whereas other candidates have only the endorsement of the "Big I Am."

—The South Dakota Tribune.

You must read "Outlawed by Lawyers" by Jas. Weir—on Page 13

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## The Non Partisan Letter Box

Avoid long letters—300 to 400 words are quickest read. Send them in.

### U.G.G. IS DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!

Glendon, Nov. 28th, 1918.

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

I am truly pleased to know I was wrong by suggesting in my last letter that Mr. Carp was a tactician of the "Big Interests" and hereby tender him my apology.

But must again take exception to his statement in Nov. 20th issue, viz.: "That the Grain Growers have gone on and made money in true capitalistic fashion," which anyone who has the most rudimentary knowledge of the Company's methods, knows to be absurd. The Profiteer sells for the most he can squeeze out of those who are compelled to buy from him, but the U.G.G. calculate how little they can with good service sell for. Again the Capitalists' Elevators were built for the purpose of buying grain at the lowest possible price. But the U.G.G. Elevators were erected for the purpose of service, viz., to handle honestly on the least possible margin and get the highest possible price on the open market, not for themselves, like the capitalists, but for their patrons. To my mind the grandest feature of all is that their net profits are not used to bloat those who are already immensely rich, but in expanding the system so that more and more of our brother farmers may be emancipated from the evils from which we have been freed, which I submit, is not talking about democracy, But Democracy in Action!

Mr. Carp quotes many glaring crimes of the Dominion Government to which he might have added the cruel discrimination in the matter of pensions, against private, non-commissioned officers, and those who did not vote, which I freely admit is almost unbelievable, only we know the preparedness of the old line Party grafters in its composition. But surely he cannot blame our few Grain Growers' Representatives for things which they were powerless to prevent, but at the proper time, which recent events show is rapidly approaching, we will demand of them an account of their doings. In the interval let us speed up our N.P.L. and prepare for the conflict, which I trust will not find us unprepared.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I thank you for giving me so much space in your paper. My only apology is that being proud of my membership in the three great movements, each having a distinct function of its own to perform for Democracy,—U.F.A., U.G.G., and N.P.L., my desire is that each one may do its part without causing friction or discord in either of the others.

—JOHN C. BUCKLEY.

### A WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE

Open Letter to The Calgary Herald  
Craigmyle, Alta., Nov. 23rd, 1918.

That the Women,—especially of Calgary,—should want to have a woman at the Peace Conference does "not commend itself" to The Herald. Besides it might embarrass Borden to know that the women of Canada took enough interest in the closing event of the Great War to want a representative at the Peace Conference, therefore that settles it. The Herald and Borden Vs. The Women, they have no chance. Go back and sit down and only speak when you are spoken to. Besides they are admonished, that all selfish wishes should be forgotten, and the whole thing left to the men, "who happen, by accident to be in charge."

I would ask The Herald if it was an accident that disfranchised the majority of the women of Canada at the last election? Doubtless by the same subtle process of reasoning The Women of Canada were selfish when they gave the blood of their sons until it flowed like water on the fields of France?

Away with such rubbish, from what ought to be a respectable paper. The Women have earned representation, and should have it if they want it.

Mentally reviewing the way things were handled here during the war, it is open to question whether some of our "best qualified," that have gone from Canada to the Conference had not better been replaced by women?

Yours, S. STEVENSON.

### URGENCY OF POLITICAL ACTION.

Immediate Action Advocated by a  
Lethbridge Farmer.

Box 712, Lethbridge, Alta.,  
Nov. 29th, 1918.

Editor, Alberta Non-Partisan:—

I have been reading, with interest, the opinions of various writers in the last two editions of the A. N. P., in reference to political action on the part of farmers. If, as Mr. Dunham states, the U. F. A. has some greater object to attain than mere politics, it is hard to grasp, for what is of more importance than measures passed which make or mar the prosperity of a country.

While the U. F. A. is not directly political, yet indirectly we are, for have we not repeatedly sent delegations down to Ottawa asking concessions from these politicians (who are public servants, or ought to be), whom we have placed in power by our vote, instead of voting for men who are representing our interests. Does Mr. Dunham presume that, through these delegations, and the Canadian Council of Agriculture, acting as mediators, that we are pursuing the wisest course? Has organization and progress been stagnant for a period of thirty years, that we must still remain inactive? Are we not losing the main source of our organized power, by being indifferent to matters that directly concern us? Or, are we devoid of all initiative, that we must perforce follow some ancient precedent?

True, our organization has made some progress of a beneficial nature, and it is true, also, a number of progressive measures have been rejected. If we ever hope to see the realization of a true Democracy (for which thousands of our brave men have sacrificed their all), we can never accomplish it by voting for autocratic candidates.

What good is the ballot if we have no option, but to vote for men whose interests are directly in opposition to our own? It is practically worthless! If we register our vote for men we know not, nor how they are financed, nor what interests they are representing, we are using our power to our own detriment, and, therefore, might just as well be without it. The only way to bring our power to one hundred per cent. efficiency is by having our own representative, and through the amalgamation of all classes of labor organization.

This is a somewhat difficult problem, but a movement to effect its accomplishment might be brought about by a convention of delegates from the U. F. A., and all classes of organized labor, to discuss ways

and means of action. The need of immediate action is essential if we maintain any hope for democracy, for this can only be accomplished through the solidity of the people's vote. The powers that be realize this, and will endeavor, through agitators, to prevent its accomplishment.

—FRED SENIOR,

West Lethbridge U. F. A.

\* \* \*

### A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IS WHAT WE NEED.

Carseland, Alta., Nov. 22, 1918.

Mr. Editor:—I have been a silent reader of your paper since it was first printed. It has sure been interesting to read it and the different opinions of the people who contribute. They are all good, and your efforts should eventually wake the farmer up.

There is an old saying, when a farmer gets his pipe filled, and plenty in his stomach, he is satisfied, and how true it is. He thinks it useless to bother his head about the larger things, such as political affairs. They are too deep subjects for him to ponder over. As long as the other fellows are tending to that part, why should he worry, so long as he is getting \$2.21 for his wheat, never thinking that everybody been like him; \$1.40 v have been the price. The result have been considerably different were it for men like Mr. Woods and others.

We must get a new form of government sooner or later, and the sooner the common people realize this fact, the better it will be for the people and country in general. To my mind the common people include about seventy-five per cent. of all the people and suppose they would all vote the same way at the election booth, they would then have a kind of government according to their heart's desire.

The present government never passed any laws for the express purpose of benefiting the farmer or any of the working people. They even thought wheat could be raised \$1.40 per bushel in these times, when other commodities have advanced almost treble. For instance, the government advocated hog production in great style, and the present price is \$16.75 on foot, with bacon selling around 50 cents per pound. There must be an awful waste to some of these hogs if they have to sell bacon for 50 cents. Who is making the profits? The packers. Why? Because they are organized. Were the farmers organized as well as the packers and all the other corporations and concerns, then perhaps we could do something also. But farmers, as a rule, are hard to get together. I have seen it in our local U.F.A. (being president three years) unless there is something special doing.

I would also like to draw attention to the way some of the large machine companies are skinning the people and the people don't know it. I worked for one of the largest machine companies in the world at one time, and the salesman got forty per cent. for selling, and afterwards fifteen per cent. for collecting his own accounts, and the manager of each house or division got fifteen per cent. also to help office and warehouse rent, and other general expenses. This total makes seventy per cent., plus freight and tariff, so it shows the cost of manufacturing is very small.

This one thing alone ought to be enough to set any intelligent man thinking that things are not as they should be by any means, and at the next election don't give your vote away, for everyone counts, and it is your only chance to do your bit.

A people's government is what we need, and I am a booster for it, and everyone should be. Too many are politically



## The Alberta Non Partisan

dead. They do not think there is any connection between politics and all their daily troubles. Yet they talk fast enough about the grafting politicians.  
I thank you. \* \* \* JAS. NELSON.

### AN INDEPENDENT PRESS A NECESSITY

The Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

I notice in recent issues of THE NON-PARTISAN a desire expressed by a number of correspondents for the establishing of a free and independent press.

I am convinced this is a matter that should receive our most serious and immediate consideration. If the Non-Partisan Movement is going to grow (and I believe it is) and become a powerful factor in the Political life of our country, then it is imperative that we have a public press, controlled absolutely by the working people, whether they be on the farm, the factory, the warehouse or the office.

The public press of to-day is controlled by men whose interests are diametrically opposed to the best interests of the workers, and although there may be many editors, who if they consulted their own inclinations, would gladly print the truth,—they dare not do it. It is a question of bread and butter with them, and men are sometimes obliged to do many things they do not like when their living is at stake. The nett result is that a distorted view of all matters pertaining to the weal of the working-people is presented to the public.

A notable instance of this was brought to my attention during the recent freight-handlers' strike in Calgary. A Calgary daily paper published lengthy editorials on the questions involved. A reader who possibly only reads that paper, would naturally, to some extent at any rate, form his viewpoint on the question at issue from those editorials. The conclusions formed would be that those strikers were nothing but a bunch of disloyal citizens,—pro-German, if you like,—out to hamper the legitimate business of the country at a time when all should be pulling together. Whereas when the truth of the matter was published subsequently by a writer in THE NON-PARTISAN, an entirely different viewpoint was presented, mostly very creditable to the strikers, and, to put it mildly, not very creditable to a certain over-rich corporation.

It is said that environment moulds the character of the individual. May we not assume that the subject matter that we read, also, has something to do with the opinions and convictions formed. If nothing but the reactionary press is read, the average reader will gradually come to accept their viewpoint as the correct one on public questions. To educate the people is an urgent necessity. Present the truth, get them to take an intelligent interest in their duties of citizenship and let them form their own conclusions.

Given those conditions, I have great faith in their sound judgment when called upon to give a decision on public questions.

The United Farmers of Ontario have decided that it is essential to have a public press controlled by them, and working for their interests, and that of the workers generally. They have started raising by subscriptions, half a million dollars to launch a daily paper. Labor Unions in Manitoba have taken action and now have their own press. If it is necessary to do this in Ontario and Manitoba, it is equally, if not more so in Alberta.

What are we going to do about it? In a recent issue appeared an article by J. C. Buckley of Gleichen, showing in

very forcible manner the benefits the farmers have derived through establishing their own elevator system. The Farmers' Commercial Company is rendering a splendid service to the Farmers of Western Canada. If the Farmers' Commercial Company was a necessity, a public press controlled and working for the interests of the people is even more so. Its field of usefulness would be extensive, and its power for good cannot be estimated. Before the Grain Growers' Grain Company was possible, the farmers had to dig down into their pockets and subscribe the necessary capital. Before a free, and independent press is possible we shall have to take similar action, as before committing ourselves to a project of this kind it will be essential to have the financial end of it established on a sound business basis beyond any question of failure.

Unfortunately the harvest has been a failure. Farmers, (the reactionary press to the contrary) between now and next harvest are going to know hard times. But farmers are used to hard times. Notwithstanding the scarcity of cash, I believe if we act unitedly and subscribe all we can, we can raise sufficient capital to launch a free and independent press in Alberta.

Do not let us expect some disinterested capitalist to come along and finance this matter for us. That would be no good. If the working people ever get economic justice, it can only be done by their own united and unaided action.

Trusting an effort will be made to start the enterprise. Yours for Justice,

DONALD CAMERON,  
Secretary, Lake View U.F.A.,  
Elnora, Alta.

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## Problems for Farmers

Lethbridge, Nov. 27th, 1918.

THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN.

Dear Sir:—

Replying to your kind letter in which you offer me the columns of THE NON-PARTISAN, will say:

1st—I am glad to note that THE NON-PARTISAN editorially agrees with me in the view that whatever action Farmers may take politically that the U.F.A. should remain strictly Non-Political, and I trust that your able Editor will continue to advocate this policy among the members of the League:

2nd—Regarding replies to the articles that you published, owing to the personalities contained in the articles by Mr. Weir, I do not care to make any reply, but in the paper for which these articles are prepared, I recently referred to Mr. Weir's article in the following language: "Our friend Jim was very pointed in telling us some truths," as he calls them, and the closing paragraph of his article reads as follows:—

"In conclusion, what the U.F.A. and the Non-Partisan League too, needs now as it never needed them before, is men of lionlike courage, of utter fearlessness, of political knowledge and political grasp, and a spirit of generous self-sacrifice who like Cæsar dare tell gray-beards the truth—though it costs a crown."

Though Jim hardly meant this as humor, yet under the circumstances in which it was used it appears to us very funny. True our beard is getting gray, yet we hardly imagined that it took such "lionlike courage," etc., to tell us "the truth." Jim evidently has the qualities, however, that are mentioned in the quotation, and with "a generous spirit of self-sacrifice" he dares to tell us though it cost a crown. The better you know our friend Jim and our own plain self, the richer the passage becomes.

3rd—In regard to the Cartoon in THE NON-PARTISAN, in this week's paper we are writing as article enclosed:—  
(See article below.)

Bear in mind I am not in any way antagonistic to the endeavor of the Non-Partisan League, but the intention in my articles is to show the importance of keeping the endeavors of the U.F.A. independent of all Political Organizations.

Again thanking you for offer of your columns and assuring you that I shall feel free to accept the same as occasion requires.

Yours truly, S. S. DUNHAM.

\* \* \*

### PROBLEMS OF THE ORGANIZED FARMERS

#### Nuts to Crack by the U.F.A.

By S. S. DUNHAM, Ex Vice-President

As bearing upon our recent article as to the position that the U.F.A. should maintain in political controversies, THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN has a somewhat interesting cartoon in which Sifton, Foster, Borden, Cockshutt and Flavell are sitting at one table eating "Political Pie," and H. W. Wood, Rice-Jones and myself are sitting at the other table marked "No Politics," while Jim Weir and other Non-Partisans are pointing to the table at which we are sitting and saying: "Let's teach the U.F.A. the use of the ballot and get pie too." This cartoon is significant.

Nothing is truer than that the Farmer should learn the best way to use the ballot, nor that the Farmer should learn to do his own thinking, and if as a result of that thinking he feels that the best way for him to accomplish his purposes is for the U.F.A. to become a political party, then we say, Amen. No doubt by so doing certain political aspirants among us will eat "Political Pie," and to our mind just here we are touching the vital point. As soon as the efforts of the organization become predominantly political in its nature, the "pie hunters" automatically become the active factors in its endeavors, and men who see the more important things for the organization and endeavor to keep it strictly non-partisan in its efforts are relegated to the rear.

This is exactly the course that former organizations heretofore existing on the Continent have taken. Having gone through and participated in the entire Farmers' Alliance and Populist movement in the States, we naturally wish to avoid this error. But it has been the history of Farmers' Organizations that just in proportion that they assume the attitude of political parties do they lose their power as economic factors. The Grange of the seventies became the green-back party of the early eighties. The Farmers' Alliance beginning in the early nineties grew very much more rapidly and became the Populist party. These organizations started just as the U.F.A. started purporting to be non-political but gradually assuming political functions and organizing along political lines until the political efforts become predominant, and then the finale. Recently in the States the Society of Equity became strong, now, within the same Territory the Non-Partisan League is assuming large proportions, but the Society of Equity has declined in direct proportion to the activity of the League.

The reader must bear in mind that in the States there is much more opportunity for a sectional party to achieve success than in Canada. Under United States Constitution, Article 10 provides that "powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people." It will be seen therefore that the great residuum of the Legislation in the States rests with the State, while with us, in the British North American Act, our constitution, certain powers are enumerated for the Dominion and certain powers for the Province, but the great residuum is reserved to the Dominion, and as a result a State has much wider legislative powers than a Province. Such subjects as the Criminal Code, with all that that means, Marriage and Divorce, Banking legislation and other powers too numerous to mention are in the State matters of State Jurisdiction, but in the Dominion are matters for the Dominion Parliament. Besides in the States such officers as Railway Commissioners, Grain Commissioners, Judges of the Supreme Court, etc., are elected by the people of the State; here they are appointed by the Dominion Government, so that it is apparent at once that a sectional minority party has infinitely more power in the States than such a party can have in the Dominion. Further it is possible for a party that does not receive one-half of the votes in the States to be elected, many of the Presidents were elected by a plurality not a majority; here the Government must be sustained by at least a majority

of the members of Parliament.

At present it is true that politics is in a chaotic condition, but Canadians everywhere are thinking more than prior to the War, and party alignments are sure to be re-drawn. It is inconceivable that there will not be a great Commoner's party which will unite all thinking producers on one side as against the capitalistic and predatory elements on the other.

The U.F.A. and the Canadian Council of Agriculture have an important work to do in moulding public opinion as it affects this alignment, but as an organization it should and will, we trust, maintain its heretofore sound position of organization along strictly economic and educational lines independent of all parties. Only yesterday we read that magnificent book "Deep Furroughs," and any unbiased member who reads this book cannot but be impressed with the great work that has been accomplished and the sound judgment that was exercised by the founders of the organization when they determined that the organization should be strictly non-political.

By pursuing this course the Organized Farmers of the Prairie Provinces have wielded more real influence and accomplished more real good than any farmers' organization yet existing, and whether we are members of the Non-Partisan League or not let us not jeopardize the work that has already been attained, or in any way hinder the greater work that is yet to be done by permitting the organization to drift into the political arena as a party or allowing it to become involved in any entangling political alliances.

—S. S. DUNHAM.

Read Glanbeck's "Promise of the Future"—page 7.

"The Company With a Record".

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# Outlawed by Lawyers

By JAMES WEIR, M.L.A.

## The Lawyers' Monopoly of Legislation.



In what I write in this issue it must be fully understood that personal animus do not dictate one syllable; nor do I believe that members of the profession have the slightest antipathy toward farmers as a class. Indeed, nearly all the practicing barristers in Alberta were farmer boys and aside from the professional necessity that makes all clients in a great measure look alike to them, they nearly all treasure a lingering affection for the farm and for The Old Folks at Home. So that in any thing said, let it be fully understood it is the system that is attacked and not the men.

I have made this statement before, and I make it now, legislation in this Dominion, both provincial and federal, is lawyer-ridden to death, just as the theatrical profession in New York is Jew-ridden to death. I do not know how many lawyers there are in Canada, nor in Alberta, but I do know that they form a great army of non-producers who must of necessity live off the labor of others. Hundreds and hundreds of them toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory hadn't much on them in the enjoyment of the roses and lilies of life.

There is no profession that so smoothly fits in with politics as that of law, none that so accords in training and environment; and it follows as the night the day that an abnormal proportion of lawyers are in every legislature.

In Ottawa, at present, in a cabinet of twenty-four members, with and without portfolios, I am told that twenty are lawyers, and the four that are not have practically neither voice nor influence. In Alberta, under Mr. Sifton, there were five lawyers out of eight. At present, the situation is reversed.—There is this anomalous situation about it, however, that each of the lawyer ministers lives in the city but represents a strictly rural constituency.

On the Legal Bills Committee, named by the Premier last session, there were eight lawyers, two doctors and a busted real-estate dealer. And when the question, which the U. F. A. had taken before the cabinet, and which had been turned down that of having a jury in civil cases came up—I observed that in a province, eighty per cent. of whose people are engaged in farming, there was not a farmer, real or arm-chair, on the committee that had to deal with it. I cite this case just as an illustration.

Then, the rich harvest the lawyer hangs on reap in this province, and in the Dominion! Some \$50,000 was paid out last year in Alberta to Legal firms to do work that in England, and other places, is done by the attorney-general, his deputy, and his staff.

But, one-sided as is much of the legislation in this country, it is the essence of equity compared with the practice in our courts. It may shock the followers of Blackstone, but I am bound to say that our system constitutes a species of brigandage that might have turned Dick Turpin and his ilk green with envy.

Suppose Bill Smith steals one hundred dollars from Tom Jones. Jones makes complaint to the proper authority. Smith is arrested. The Crown hires a lawyer, and Smith, if he can afford it, hires one also. It takes hours and sometimes days to decide whether the case should go on at all or not. It probably goes to a higher court, and may be appealed and fussed over until it is forgotten in the maze of legal progression. Finally, Smith is found guilty and goes to jail with hard labor. The crown attorney gets paid; the constable gets paid; the J. P. gets paid; probably Smith's lawyer got paid in advance; the State exacts from Smith a term of labor, but where in all this does Tom Jones come in. Does he get his hundred dollars if Smith had hid it, or spent it before his arrest? Not on your life. Jones loses his hundred, his time, his temper, and probably some expense money besides, and was a fool not to take his first loss, keep quiet, and be more watchful for the future. Now, in all justice, the state should have made Smith, when he was found guilty, perform enough work to re-imburse Jones his loss and then have turned him loose. It couldn't very well keep him at hard labor long enough to pay all the expenses of his trial because there is a limit to human life.

Now this is an every-day occurrence, and causes no comment, but when put down in cold ink it looks so ludicrous and unfair that it would astonish any one but a habitue, or an official of a Canadian courtroom. It is almost as ludicrous as the spectacle of a clientless lawyer police magistrate fining a hundred people for not wearing masks for the public safety and in a public place, while he wore none himself in the court-room. Perhaps a court-room, after all, isn't a public place, but the private preserve of the men a public pays for the privilege of being over-guarded.

The power the creditor class has over the debtor class in this country forms a condition worthy of the pen of Charles Dickens in the hey day of his popularity. Our courts are made for the creditor class. The whole system of making the losing party pay the costs of the successful party is in the interest of the creditor—the man with the money. The parties to every contested law-suit "chance" the amount of the costs, and the railway company, or the big implement company can afford to take a chance on \$500 easier than a poor farmer can take a chance on five dollars, or even one dollar.

Party costs were originally levied on the man who had done a wrong, but the practice has been extended by the lawyers and the interests that can afford to hire them and pay fat fees to all cases. Fair legislation, not lawyer-made, would limit these party costs strictly to cases of actual wrong, such as deceit, fraud, over-reaching and unnecessary proceeding.

But what should be said of party costs in uncontested cases. Suppose a farmer owes an implement company \$200. He admits the debt, and has no desire to repudiate it, but cannot pay. He is sued, and judgment goes against him for the debt, court fees and costs. It will take \$250, or perhaps \$300 to pay the original debt of \$200. Thus the farmer pays the costs of maintaining the courts, and the cost of collecting debts from himself, and all for the benefit of the corporation.

The machinery bill in this province provides redress in cases where the agent lied or the machine didn't stand up, and while the companies were very sore, and

even threatened to leave the province, it is noted that most of them are still doing business at the same old stands and haven't suffered greatly from the measure. But the system of party costs in uncontested cases is still in vogue, and the party-heeler bailiff still works for the creditor and draws his pay from—or sweats it out of the debtor.

Two or three years ago a young man in the Okotoks district sued a well-known publishing company for libel. On the advice of his lawyer, he included the business manager in the action. The action in that regard was dismissed, as it had every right to be. In the action against the company, the jury disagreed, and the plaintiff lost out. On the merits of the case I have no comment to make; but at the conclusion the young man found himself loaded with a bill of costs amounting I am told to nearly \$400. Now, what I don't understand is this: The judge received a large salary; the sheriff received a salary of \$3,000 a year; the clerk of the court is well paid, and every one connected with the case received a becoming remuneration, and yet this lad had a load of debt hanging over his head for years.

If you talk to any fair-minded lawyer he will tell you that many of these things should be changed, but, in my opinion, the time will only come for that change when the farmers and workers gain control of the government and make the change themselves. In New Zealand, I am informed, there are appointed as arbitrators of difference men who may, or may not, be (and in most cases, they are not) lawyers. The disputants appear before the arbitrator with witnesses, if advisable or necessary, state their respective cases, and the arbitrator decides the issue. No long-winded special pleaders are permitted to cite cases that were decided in the time of Richard III, to place every obstacle in the way of a fair decision, to befuddle and confuse the mind of the arbitrator, to brow-beat and bull-dose the witnesses, nor to in any way provide the spectacles so often seen in our courts. And, incidentally, it may be stated that in New Zealand the legal profession is not overcrowded, and the shyster is as rare as the mastodon.

There is no nobler profession than that of the law. There are in Alberta a number of Nature's Noblemen practising the profession. More than once in British history the liberties of the people have been preserved by members of the bar, but my original contention still stands that the legislation of this country is lawyer-ridden to death, and a power too absolute to be a mortal's trust, is placed in their hands, both legally and legislatively.

—JAMES WEIR.

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## To the Workers of Calgary

I have always considered the City of Calgary should be a model employer.

The Wages and Salaries of the City Employees have been increased 25 per cent during the past two years.

Recognition of rights of the workers as regards holidays, sick leave, etc. are now universally recognized throughout the City Service.

Yours faithfully,

**A. J. SAMIS**

*Candidate for Commissioner*

**A. W. Ellson Fawkes**  
for  
**Commissioner**



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*Candidate for  
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### TOPICS IN BRIEF

That Junker Caste responsible for all the bloodshed, waste and degradation of the past four years must now disappear.

Many women munition workers in Britain have already been summarily discharged, suddenly turned wageless adrift in over-crowded munition centres, far from their family homes, with no new situations to be found, and with rent of lodgings at an extortionate level.

There are three million women workers in war trades and the Labor Party Executive has sent a strong remonstrance to the Ministers responsible, and requesting that proper provision be made before turning them adrift.

Railway shareholders in Britain are now impatient for the Government's proposals as to the future of British railways.

The Government is very definitely pledged to the National Union of Railway men immediately peace is assured to take into sympathetic consideration the men's demands for an eight-hour day. Nationalization of Railways will be one of the points pressed on candidates in the coming election.

To the Manufacturers' Association a paper is a good investment—Why not to the Farmer?

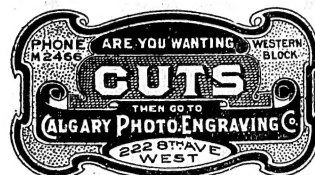
The Editor's article "Democratizing our Educational Institutions" is held over.

Are you following the controversy raised by S. S. Dunham? It is of vital importance to farmers. Back copies can be sent you.

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S. S. Savage  
H. T. Whittemore

# Your City Needs Your Vote

N.B.--Do not use X when Voting. This means a spoiled ballot. Use figures only  
opposite candidates' names in order of your preference.

Advt.



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Reconstruction of City Finances.

Absolute Municipal Control of Hospitals and Health.

A Fair Hearing and Unbiased Judgement to all Classes.

Recognition of Labor Unions in all Departments of the City's Work.

A Live Program throughout the City so as to be able to give Employment to All.

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited.

**R. C. MARSHALL.**

## SERVING AN APPRENTICESHIP

No green hand can step into a job and do it as well as a journeyman—he has to serve an apprenticeship. M. C. Costello had to serve his apprenticeship as a printer's devil before he got his union card. He served an apprenticeship before he got the right to use "Dr." before his name. He served an apprenticeship as alderman before he felt he was competent to be mayor of the City of Calgary. He has made good on the job, and fair-minded employers do not fire a man because he has been giving them good service for a few years. Because he has been a good man on the job is the reason why he is going to be kept at it during the coming term as mayor, by the votes of the men and women of the city.

There is no reason to again remind people that money was tight during the past four years, and it will be scarce for a while yet. Nearly every business has had to curtail its expenditure. The city's money has to be raised by taxing the ratepayers and every cent that could be saved in running the city was that much less that the man had to pay who was finding it mighty hard trying to make a slightly increased wage meet the ever-increasing cost of living. Public utilities had to be curtailed and development work stopped almost completely—but the efficiency of the services were not seriously impaired and everybody got fair treatment. Calgary comes out of this trying period in better financial shape than most cities.



New questions will come before the council of 1919. Reconstruction period should mean closest harmony and progressive legislation with the federal and provincial forces, and the city in seeing that the men from overseas will get a square deal when they get back.

Public health matters are most important and the hospitals should be municipally owned and controlled.

Public utilities in which the people's money is invested should be carried on under friendly guidance and by those favorable to the principles and who have been safe and sane in the past.

Because of his sound stand on these and other matters is the reason why the ratepayers will again

**VOTE FOR**

**COSTELLO**